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**Report of the Committee of the Central Advisory
Board of Education on a National Cultural Trust
for India, together with the decisions of the
Board thereon.**

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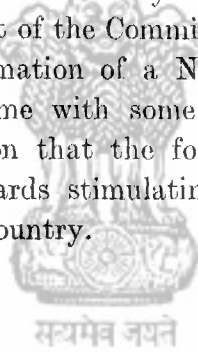
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PREFACE

At their thirteenth Annual Meeting held at Bombay in January, 1947, the Central Advisory Board of Education carefully considered the report of the Committee appointed to examine the proposal for the formation of a National Cultural Trust for India and adopted the same with some slight amendment. The Board was of the opinion that the formation of such a Trust would go a long way towards stimulating and co-ordinating the cultural activities in the country.



Report of the Committee of the Central Advisory Board of Education on a National Cultural Trust for India, together with the decisions of the Board thereon.

Report of the Committee on National Cultural Trust for India, which met in New Delhi on the 25th and 26th October, 1946, as adopted by the Central Advisory Board of Education.

At their meeting held at Mysore on the 24th, 25th and 26th January, 1946, the Central Advisory Board of Education considered a Memorandum from the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal in regard to the formation of a National Cultural Trust of India (Annexure II) and decided to recommend that the question should be further examined by a Committee to be appointed by the Government of India. In pursuance of this recommendation, a Committee was appointed with the following :—

1. Sachiyottama Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E., Diwan of Travancore.
2. Dr. P. Bagchi, M.A., D.Litt., Professor, Visva-Bharti, Santiniketan.
3. Dr. Tara Chand, M.A., D.Phil. (Oxon.), Vice-Chancellor, Allahabad University.
4. Mr. Justice Norman G. A. Edgley, President, Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.
5. Sir Maurice Gwyer, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., LL.D., Vice-Chancellor, Delhi University.
6. Khan Bahadur Dr. M. Hasan, M.A., D.Phil. (Oxon.), Vice-Chancellor, University of Dacca.
7. Dr. Zakir Husain, M.A., Ph.D., Principal, Jamia Millia Islamia.
8. Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, M.L.A. (Central).
9. The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir K. Ramunni Menon, M.A. (Cantab.), LL.D.
10. Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta, M.A., Ph.D., Bar-at-Law, Diwan of Banskara.
11. Diwan Bahadur Sir. A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudliar, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.O.G., F.A.C.S., Vice-Chancellor, University of Madras.
12. Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, LL.D., D.Litt., F.B.A., Vice-Chancellor, Benares Hindu University.
13. Mrs. Renuka Ray, B.Sc. (Econ.) (London).
14. Dr. D. M. Sen, O.B.E., M.A., Ph.D., Educational Adviser to the Government of India.
15. Dr. (Mrs.) Malini B. Sukthankar, M.B.B.S., J.P.
16. Mrs. Annu Swaminadhan, M.L.A. (Central).

(2) The Committee met in New Delhi on the 25th and 26th October, 1946. The following members were present :—

- Mrs. Renuka Ray, B.Sc. (Econ.) (London).
Dr. P. Bagchi, M.A., D.Litt.
Dr. Tara Chand, M.A., D.Phil. (Oxon.).
Mr. Justice Norman G. A. Edgley.

Sardar Surjit Singh Majithia, M.L.A. (Central).

Dr. Mohan Sinha Mehta, M.A., Ph.D., Bar-at-Law.

Dr. D. M. Sen, O.B.E., M.A., Ph.D.

Dr. (Mrs.) Malini B. Sukthankar, M.B.B.S., J.P.

Mrs. Ammu Swaminadhan, M.L.A. (Central).

Mrs. Renuka Ray presided over the meeting.

Dr. Akhtar Hussain, D.Litt. (Paris), Assistant Educational Adviser to the Government of India was Secretary to the Committee.

Dr. S. N. Sen, M.A., Ph.D., B.Litt. (Oxon.), Director of Archives and Dr. N. P. Chakravarti, M.A., Ph.D., Joint Director General of Archaeology in India, attended the meeting as observers.

(3) The following members were unable to be present owing to illness or other reasons :

Sachivottama Sir C. P. Ramaswamy Aiyar, K.C.S.I., K.C.I.E.

Sir Maurice Gwyer, K.C.B., K.C.S.I., LL.D.

Khan Bahadur Dr. M. Hasan, M.A., D.Phil. (Oxon.), Bar-at-Law.

Dr. Zakir Husain, M.A., Ph.D.

The Hon'ble Diwan Bahadur Sir K. Ramunni Menon, M.A. (Cantab.), LL.D.

Diwan Bahadur Sir A. Lakshmanaswamy Mudliar, B.A., M.D., F.R.C.O.G. F.A.C.S.

Sir Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan, LL.D., D.Litt., F.B.A.

(4) The Agenda before the Committee was as follows :—

1. To consider the desirability of setting up a National Cultural Trust for stimulating and co-ordinating the cultural activities in the country.
2. To consider the constitution and functions of such a Trust, in the light of the decision on item 1 of the Agenda.
3. To consider the ways and means of setting up the Trust.
4. To consider the minimum administrative machinery for the efficient functioning of the Trust.
5. To consider any other matter that may be raised with the consent of the Chairman.

(5) Papers circulated along with the Agenda to the members are set out in the Annexures in addition to the following papers :—

The Memoranda from the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal containing proposals on Cultural Reconstruction. (Annexures I to VI.)

(6) The Committee considered carefully the Memorandum of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal and agreed with its object that it was desirable, to establish an organisation to stimulate and promote the culture of the country. India has a precious cultural heritage. If she is to build afresh a civilisation worthy of her heritage, it must not ignore those moral and aesthetic values which provided so stable a foundation in the past. What is needed is to create an environment which would stimulate and sustain creative activities in the cultural field. At present there is no suitable organisation to foster and co-ordinate the development of cultural activities of the country as a whole and creative artists have often to work in environments which are by no means congenial to any aesthetic pursuits. An independent body of the kind suggested by the Royal Asiatic Society

of Bengal and as representative as possible of the various cultural elements in Indian life should, therefore, be set up with the least possible delay to fill this important gap in the life of this country. The Committee recommended that such a body could appropriately be called the "Indian Cultural Trust".

(7) The Committee were of the opinion that while the Trust should be constituted by a Charter or by an Act of the Legislature and should be handsomely endowed by the Central Government, it must function as an autonomous body with a preponderant non-official element. The main function of the Trust should be to encourage cultural activities and it should operate through appropriate Academies and Committees.

Functions.

In addition to the functions to which reference is made below in connection with the proposed Academies, the main functions of the Indian Cultural Trust in the opinion of the Committee should be :—

- (i) To encourage cultural education and research with particular reference to the preservation and development of traditional Indian Culture in relation to such subjects as literature, architecture, sculpture, painting, music, dramatic art and dancing.
- (ii) To acquire for the State sites, monuments, manuscripts, pictures or other objects of importance from the point of view of Indian Culture.
- (iii) To advise the Government of India and the Provincial Governments with regard to cultural matters.
- (iv) To co-operate with Indian Universities in the development of activities in the purely cultural fields.
- (v) To co-operate with the learned societies of India in order to encourage and expand the cultural side of the work now performed by them.
- (vi) To publish suitable popular literature on cultural matters.
- (vii) To maintain close touch with all parts of India (including the States) by holding periodical conferences.
- (viii) To organise Archaeological and other cultural missions to foreign countries and generally to develop and extend existing cultural contacts between Indian and other countries.

Constitution.

The Committee recommended the following constitution for the Trust :—

1. Chairman of the Inter-University Board.
2. President of the National Institute of Sciences.
3. President of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.
4. President of the Visva-Bharti.
5. The Head of the Jamia Millia.
- 6—15. Ten members to be nominated by the Government of India, including representatives of Museums, Libraries, etc., five of whom will represent the principal cultural elements in the Indian States.
- 16—26. Eleven members to be nominated by the 11 Provincial Governments who shall be persons eminent in the cultural life of the country.
- 27—30. One member to be nominated by the Council of State and three members by the Central Legislative Assembly.
- 31—33. Three members to be nominated by the All-India Federation of Chambers of Commerce.
34. The Director-General of Archaeology in India.
35. The Director of Archives.
36. The Director of Anthropological Survey of India.
- 37—47. Eleven members to represent the proposed Academies—five to be elected by the Academy of Letters and three each by the Academies of Arts and Music.

The Trustees will have power to elect not more than three additional members ; the total number of trustees shall not exceed 50.

The tenure of office of the Trustees will be five years in the case of each member of the Trust other than the *ex-officio* members.

The Committee further recommended that the Indian Cultural Trust should perform its functions through the Agency of the following committees :—

- (i) A Finance Committee.
- (ii) A Committee for the control and establishment of National Parks and for the acquisition of important sites and national treasures.
- (iii) A Foreign Relations Committee.
- (iv) A Committee for the publication of general cultural literature, and
- (v) Such other Committees as the Trustees may consider it necessary to constitute.

(8) The Committee suggested that the main activities of the Trust should be carried on through the medium of Academies, of which the following three, in the first instance, should be constituted :—

- (i) The Academy of Letters which will deal with Indian Languages and Literature, Philosophy and History.
- (ii) The Academy of Arts (including the graphic, plastic and applied arts) and Architecture.
- (iii) The Academy of Music, Drama and Dancing.

The object of these Academies will be to foster and develop the subjects with which they deal and to promote the study of those subjects with a view to maintaining the highest possible standards of achievement.

It is contemplated that each Academy will be an autonomous body with a separate endowment which may be supplemented by grants-in-aid from the Trust and donations from other sources. The Trust will be the co-ordinating authority in regard to the work of these Academies. It will allow complete freedom to the Academies in the matter of their cultural activities, but in regard to matters of finance it may exercise a general control over the Academies by means of Regulations. The Academies will have power to frame rules with regard to their own functions which are not inconsistent with the regulations framed by the Trust.

Each Academy will be administered by a small Council and a President to be elected by the Fellows. The number of Fellows should be restricted in the case of the Academy of Letters to 100 persons, while in the case of the Academies of Arts and Music, the number of Fellows will be limited to 50 for each Academy.

The Committee recommended that in the Charter or in the Act of the Legislature by which the Indian Cultural Trust and the Academies would be constituted, the names of not more than 30 per cent of the proposed number of Fellows should be mentioned as " Foundation Fellows ", the remainder being elected by the Fellows as persons of suitable eminence become available. Not more than five new Fellows would be elected annually in the case of the Academy of Letters and not more than three each in the case of the other two Academies. The Fellows on election will hold office for life.

At their Annual Meeting the Fellows of each Academy will elect its Council and also the President of the Academy. After their election the first Council will appoint a permanent Secretary.

The Council of the Academy will consist of not more than 15 members in each case, including the permanent Secretary, who will be an *ex-officio* member of the Council.

(9) The main functions of each Council will be :—

- (i) To manage the affairs of the Academy and for this purpose to frame such rules as may appear to them to be necessary for its proper administration, provided that such Rules are not inconsistent with any regulations framed by the Trustees of the Indian Cultural Trust. All rules so framed should be reported for the information of the Fellows at their next meeting.
- (ii) To superintend the publication of periodical or other work published by the Academy.
- (iii) To prepare and submit to the Annual Meeting of the Fellows a report on the general concerns of the Academy, which report should be submitted to the Trustees of the Indian Cultural Trust with any recommendations which the Fellows might consider it necessary to make.
- (iv) To take such legal proceedings as might be necessary in the interests of the Academy.
- (v) To make recommendations to the Trustees of the Indian Cultural Trust for the affiliation of other cultural institutions and for making grants-in-aid to such institutions.
- (vi) To award prizes for work of exceptional merit.
- (vii) To organise lectures and conferences.

(10) The Committee then considered the financial aspect of their proposals. They came to the conclusion that the autonomy of the Trust and continuity of its work would only be ensured by a substantial endowment. The endowment should yield sufficient recurring income to meet the administrative and other charges of the Trust and its components. On a rough basis, the Committee estimated that the annual expenditure on the combined Secretariat might amount to Rupees one lakh approximately. The expenditure connected with the other functions mentioned above would be about Rs. 10 lakhs per annum making a total of Rs. 11 lakhs. It would, therefore, be necessary to provide the Trust with an endowment of not less than Rs. 4 crores to enable the Trustees to perform their functions properly.

The Committee hoped that if the Central Government undertook to contribute half of this sum, a quarter could be raised from the States and another quarter from the Provincial Governments.

(11) The Committee then took into considerations two other Memoranda from the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal relating to the development of cultural contacts between Indian and other countries.

The Committee took note of the fact that in India efforts are being made to develop cultural relations with foreign countries, and Societies and Committees have been established for this purpose; and that, in some countries, Committees have been established to develop such contacts with India. The Committee, therefore, recommended that an interim Standing Committee should be appointed by the Government of India immediately more or less on the model of the proposed Indian Cultural Trust, to develop cultural contacts with other countries and to co-ordinate the work of organisations already established in India for this purpose.

(12) The following is a summary of the main conclusions and recommendations of the Committee :—

- (i) It is desirable to establish an autonomous body called the "Indian Cultural Trust" to stimulate and promote the cultural life of the country.
- (ii) The Trust should be constituted by a Charter or an Act of the Legislature and should be handsomely endowed by Government.
- (iii) The functions and constitution of the Trust should be generally on the lines recommended in para. 7 of the Report.

- (iv) The main activities of the Trust should be carried on through Academies, of which the following three should be constituted in the first instance :—
 - (a) The Academy of Letters.
 - (b) The Academy of Arts (including the graphic, plastic and applied arts) and Architecture.
 - (c) The Academy of Music, Drama and Dancing.
- (v) Each Academy should be an autonomous body with a separate endowment which may be supplemented by grants-in-aid from the Trust and donations from other sources.
- (vi) The Trust will exercise a general control over the Academies in regard to financial matters by means of regulations. In other matters the Academies will be independent of the Trust.
- (vii) The lines on which the Academies may be constituted are indicated in para. 8 of the Report.
- (viii) The functions of the Council of the Academies are outlined in para. 9 of the Report.
- (ix) The initial endowment of the Trust should be not less than Rs. 4 crores to enable the Trustees to function properly. If the Central Government contributed half of this sum, a quarter could be raised from the Provincial Governments and the balance from Indian States.
- (x) An interim Standing Committee should be appointed by the Government of India immediately to develop cultural contacts with other countries and to co-ordinate the work of organisations already established in India for the purpose.

ANNEXURE I.

A note on the organisation of cultural development in India, by the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education.

The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal has put forward proposals for a National Cultural Trust which are circulated to the members. The Society has also put up proposals for a National Academy of Arts and Letters and a National Parks Organisation. The functions proposed for the National Cultural Trust include those to be covered by the two other organisations. In fact, it is suggested that the National Academy of Arts and Letters should be under the immediate control of the Trust.

2. It will be agreed in all quarters that there is much to be fostered and developed in the country in the field of art and culture and that in particular, steps should be taken to stimulate public interest in the arts and to raise the standing of the artist in public estimation. At the same time it will be generally accepted that Government should not undertake any direct control of the activities in the field of art except perhaps in the educational field.

3. In considering the nature of the organisation for the subjects proposed for the National Cultural Trust, the first question which arises is whether we can have one organisation dealing with all of them. In the field of letters, the poet, dramatist or author, is generally able to achieve not only a tolerable living but also maintain some social status. Moreover, it is almost impossible to divorce Literature from History and Philosophy and this shows the importance of the co-operation of Universities and other educational authorities. There is also a risk that by linking Letters to Arts, the needs of the Artists will not receive the same

consideration as those of Letters. It is therefore more appropriate to have two parallel organisations : one for Letters and the other for Arts. In England the body concerned with Letters is the British Academy. It is hoped to place copies of the Constitution of this body before the Committee.

4. So far as the Arts are concerned, there are three bodies concerned with the subject in England, *viz.*—

- (i) Royal Academy.
- (ii) Arts Council (Formerly Council for the Encouragement of Music and the Arts).
- (iii) Royal Fine Art Commission.

The Royal Academy's authority and activities are confined to a particular branch of art, *viz.*—Painting, Sculpture and Architecture. The Arts Council was founded in 1941 to ensure that the extraordinary conditions created by the war did not result in the complete destruction of artistic activities. The Council has three panels under the headings Music, Art and Drama. Under Art are dealt with painting, ballet design, design in houses and everyday life, book illustration, home and town planning, needlework and embroidery and typography. The Council's funds derive entirely from Government. Treasury criticism is not directed towards the particular objects selected for assistance. It is understood that the Council will continue its useful activities and has in fact prepared a five-year plan.

The Royal Fine Arts Commission was set up to enquire into such questions of public amenity or of artistic importance as may be referred to them by Government departments and public or quasi-public bodies. It is a purely advisory body. The Commission is composed of five laymen, seven Architects, two Painters, two Sculptors and an Engineer. Subjects which have come within the purview of the Commission include the design and lay-out of new buildings, bridges and open spaces, repair and decoration of public and historic buildings and the design and siting of Memorials and commemorative Monuments.

If we accept the need for a Council of Arts for India, it might deal with Music, Dancing, Dramatic Art, Painting, Drawing and Sculpture (including the decorative, industrial and commercial Arts) and Architecture (other than Archaeological).

5. For the constitution of the two organisations proposed, *viz.* for Art and Letters, it may be useful to consider the model of the National Institute of Sciences of India. It started with 125 Foundation Fellows of whom 100 were first nominated, the remaining 25 being elected by them. The original provision for the election of ten new fellows every year has now been raised to sixteen (fourteen Ordinary and two Honorary). The Council of the Institute has 25 members. In addition, there is provision for the co-operating Academies and the Indian Science Congress Association to be represented by an additional Vice-President and an additional Member of Council. (The 1944 report shows 37 members of Council in all.) A similar procedure may be suitable for the Academy of Letters and the Academy or Council of Arts proposed. In the case of Letters a list of prominent men in the field may be prepared. In the case of Arts, it is not necessary to confine selection to individual Arts, though prominent artists need not, *ipso facto* be excluded. We should rather aim at obtaining the services of men of the highest possible standing in progressive Indian artistic thought. We should also guard against giving undue weight to political or communal considerations. The Arts institution can form panels and invite members of associations of individual arts to serve on them. These bodies will no doubt need substantial assistance from public funds though, in view of their nature, they can also look forward to endowments from private individuals.

6. Regarding the organisation for parks and monuments, it should be noted that there is a suitable machinery for dealing with such questions which arise in the Archaeological field. As regards other buildings, sites of beauty, reserves, etc., it seems a separate and independent organisation will be necessary. The

corresponding body in England is the National Trust. The President and Chairman of the Council is H. M. Queen Mary. The Council which is composed of fifty members (one half nominated by different learned bodies, the other elected by the members of the Trust), appoints its Executive Committee. The Executive Committee in its turn appoints a number of Sub-Committees. Chief of these are the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Estates Management Committee. The Trust enjoys statutory powers to hold land and buildings inalienably and for all time and has also certain other important powers and privileges.

ANNEXURE II.

THE NECESSITY FOR A NATIONAL CULTURAL TRUST.

Letter No. 228, dated 26th January, 1945, from the General Secretary, Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, to the Secretary to the Government of India, Department of Education, Health and Lands, New Delhi.

In several of their previous letters to the Government of India, this Council have endeavoured to emphasize the necessity for developing the cultural side of Indian life in connection with post-war reconstruction. They fully realize the value of scientific, economic and industrial development on which so much thought is now being concentrated, but they feel that, unless steps are taken simultaneously to develop the cultural life of the people, there is a danger that India may lose spiritually more than she is likely to gain materially in the race for post-war prosperity. So far, the Council have directed the attention of the Government of India to a few aspects of this problem. They have pointed out the importance of providing permanent records of India's cultural history from the earliest times in National and Provincial Museums. They have also stressed the necessity for preserving the ancient monuments of India and have discussed the question of the effective utilization of such monuments in connection with cultural education by making them more accessible to Indian travellers or visitors from other countries.

(2) The Council feel, however, that so far they have only touched the fringed of this vital problem. In the past, India's contributions to world culture have been of inestimable value, especially in the fields of literature, religious philosophy architecture and the fine arts. The great traditions of the past still remain, but unless prompt steps are taken to prevent such a catastrophe, there is an imminent danger that they may be submerged and lost in the flood of twentieth century materialism. The question therefore arises as to what steps, if any, should be taken to utilize everything that is best in India's ancient culture in connection with post-war reconstruction. Although the Council feel that cultural, as opposed to academic and technical education, should ordinarily be left to non-official agencies and that learned Societies and the general public should be invited to take an active part in the matter, they are nevertheless of the opinion that under present conditions some encouragement and assistance from the Central Government is essential.

(3) In the first place, an organization should be established which might be known as the National Cultural Trust. Although it is desirable that this Trust should be in touch with Government it should be as far as possible non-official and autonomous. At the inception of the scheme it might be necessary for Government to endow the Trust with sufficient funds to enable it to fulfil its proper functions but, for its main regular income, it would have to rely on financial support

from the public. This Council believe that all Indians of rank, wealth and education are proud of their great cultural heritage and they have no doubt that the requisite propaganda will secure the income necessary to ensure the success of the project.

(4) The main functions of the National Cultural Trust would be :—

- (i) To encourage cultural education and research with particular reference to the preservation and development of traditional Indian culture in relation to such subjects as literature, sculpture, painting, music, dramatic art and dancing.
- (ii) To acquire for the nation, sites, monuments, manuscripts, pictures or other objects of importance from the point of view of Indian national culture.
- (iii) To advise the Government of India and the Provincial Governments with regard to cultural matters which are beyond the scope of the ordinary school or college curriculum.
- (iv) To co-ordinate and assist in the development of the activities of Indian Universities in the purely cultural field.
- (v) To co-operate with the learned Societies of India in order to encourage and expand the cultural side of the work now performed by them.
- (vi) To publish suitable popular literature in connection with cultural matters.
- (vii) To maintain close touch with all parts of India (including the States) by holding periodical conferences.

(5) With regard to the first of these points I am to say that the Council have under their consideration a scheme for the establishment of a National Academy of Art and Letters, with regard to which the Government of India are being addressed separately. It is intended that this Academy should function under the immediate control of the National Trust. While the Council do not contemplate that this Academy will assume any direct administrative control or responsibility in respect of similar institutions in the Provinces or the Indian States, they expect that it will maintain a high standard of efficiency and taste, which other smaller Academies in the country will seek to achieve. It will be a centre not merely for research and instruction in the fine and liberal arts but also for the training of persons deputed for this purpose by the Provinces and the States. The advice of experts from the Academy would be available if required by the Governing Bodies of local cultural institutions and, provided the Council of the Academy was satisfied that any such local institution had attained a reasonable standard of efficiency and deserved encouragement, it would be open to them to recommend to the Trustees that it should be given financial assistance in the form of a grant-in-aid from the funds of the National Trust.

(6) The second function proposed for the Trust would bear some resemblance to the work which is performed by the National Trust in England. The ultimate use to be made of the acquisitions would depend on their nature.

(7) As regards the third point, it is not intended that the National Trust should be concerned with the control or administration of museums. These would remain as at present under the Central and Provincial Governments assisted by the Trustees of the National Museum in the manner indicated in this Council's letters Nos. 2422 and 2736, dated 24th November, 1944 and 20th December, 1944, respectively. Further, the Archaeological Department would continue to be administered as at present, but with the assistance of the recently constituted Archaeological Advisory Board. Except with regard to these matters, the Council hope that, in due course, the functions of the National Trust would gradually approximate to such as are performed in some European countries by the Department of Fine Arts. Apart, however, from its relations with the National Academy and

items 2 and 6 mentioned in para. 4, the Trust would perform most of its functions not by the method of direct administration but as an advisory body with authority in suitable cases to allot grants-in-aid, to endow fellowships or scholarships, or otherwise to assist the Central and Provincial Governments or the States in the cultural development of India.

(8) The relations between the Trust and the Universities would naturally vary according to the prominence given to purely cultural education in the Universities concerned. The activities of most of the Indian Universities are necessarily restricted by financial difficulties, and the average student, confined as he usually is to a rigid scientific or literary curriculum, has little opportunity to interest himself in culture in the wider sense of the term. On the other hand, cultural research of great national value is often undertaken at the post-graduate stage in some of the Universities. What seems to be required at present is to encourage the formation of organizations such as exist in English and American Universities to foster the interest and activity of students in cultural matters outside their ordinary curriculum, and the publication in popular and attractive form of the results of cultural research. This is a field in which the help and co-operation of the National Trust could not fail to bear fruit. Further their help in widening the scope of University education by endowing University Extension Lectures might have a very good effect.

(9) The assistance of the learned Societies of India would be of the greatest importance to the National Trust, especially in connection with the development of the popular side of the movement. The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal and its sister Societies in other parts of India are not merely groups of scholars associated for the purpose of scientific or cultural research. Probably the majority of the members of these bodies are ordinary intellectual people, who are not professional scientists or educationalists, but who find stimulus and recreation in culture and learning. In any cultural revival the influence of such bodies, if properly directed might be of inestimable value to the country. In fact, in connection with the scheme which is now being outlined, the learned Societies would be in effect the agents of the National Trust within the areas from which the majority of their members are drawn. In a small way the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal is endeavouring to further the cause of culture by holding weekly Discussion Meetings (which are open to the public) at which well-known people are invited to speak on various scientific or cultural topics of interest to educated Indians or visitors to India. These talks have become popular not only with members of the Allied Forces but also with the ordinary residents of Calcutta and the interest which they have aroused is reflected by a considerable increase in applications for permanent membership of the Society. Possibly this side of the Society's work might be further developed by the publication of a number of popular hand-books on the history, religion and literature of India or with regard to some of her ancient cities and provinces. It might also be possible to expand the very important work on which the Society has been engaged for many years in connection with research and the publication in the Bibliotheca Indica of ancient treatises of unique value. Further in any cultural survey which may be undertaken at the instance of Government or the National Trust (if and when constituted), this Council would always be prepared to take a part and they are only too anxious to assist the cause of cultural reconstruction in any way in which their help may be required. The Council have little doubt that most of the other learned Societies of India would also be ready to co-operate to the best of their ability.

(10) As regards the sixth item mentioned in para. 4, the Council feel that there is at present much scope in India for good popular literature (both for young people or for adults) on such subjects as Indian art and architecture, history, archaeology and the religion and ancient customs of the country. There is also

a scarcity of good books for the intellectual traveller. It would be an important function of the National Trust to remedy this deficiency by the establishment of a good Publication Department. In this matter help would probably be forthcoming from the Universities and learned Societies.

(11) The seventh of the suggested functions of the National Trust calls for little comment. Such conferences should be held as frequently as possible in different parts of India for the purpose of keeping the Trustees in touch with the views of the leading people in all the Chief cultural centres of the country. The sessions should be arranged to coincide with public holidays in order that there may be as little interference as possible with the professional work of the people who are asked to attend the conferences.

(12) It would of course be desirable to constitute the proposed National Trust by a special Act of the Central Legislature. The Trust would require a permanent Secretariat with its headquarters at New Delhi or possibly at Calcutta. The Board of Trustees should contain representatives from British India and the States and should include businessmen and members of the learned professions.

(13) Finally, I am to suggest that the Government of India should appoint a Committee of Enquiry for the purpose of making a general survey of those branches of traditional Indian culture, which are still alive or are capable of being revived for the welfare of the entire community. The survey should deal with such subjects as vernacular literature, religious philosophy, the drama, architecture, painting, sculpture, the decorative arts, music and dancing. Although the Committee should not be too large it should be representative of cultured opinion in India as a whole, including the Indian States. It should also contain representatives from some of the leading learned Societies of India. The main Committee might find it convenient to entrust the survey with regard to particular subjects to small sub-committees.

(14) After completing their survey the Committee should submit their recommendations to the Government of India on the following points :—

- (a) Methods to be adopted for preserving traditional Indian culture in localities where protective measures are necessary for this purpose.
- (b) The general development of cultural life in India with regard to the subjects mentioned in para. 13.
- (c) The Committee's views might be also ascertained with regard to this Council's proposal for the formation of a National Cultural Trust and the financial implications of the scheme. They might be invited to offer suggestions with regard to the scope and activities of the proposed organization or to put forward any alternative suggestions for cultural reconstruction in India.

ANNEXURE III.**THE NECESSITY FOR A NATIONAL CULTURAL TRUST.**

No. 228.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL,
1, PARK STREET, CALCUTTA.
26th January, 1945.

From

The General Secretary,
Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

To

The Secretary to the Government of India,
Department of Education, Health and Lands,
New Delhi.

SIR,

In several of their previous letters to the Government of India, this Council have endeavoured to emphasize the necessity for developing the cultural side of Indian life in connection with post-war reconstruction. They fully realize the value of scientific, economic and industrial development on which so much thought position is equally distressing. Rarely is any attempt made to consult a qualified architect, even if such an expert is available, the custom being to entrust the design and construction to an ordinary building contractor whose knowledge of architectural practice is negligible. The result is that everywhere one is confronted with incongruous groups of buildings, each structure aesthetically bad, devoid of character, the whole individually and collectively entirely discreditable to the country in which they have been erected. The effect of this degraded structural environment on the mentality of the populace cannot of course be precisely estimated, but there is little doubt that its reactions are largely responsible for the disastrous decline in public taste within recent years. Such a state of affairs would be regrettable in a people possessed of no specially notable aesthetic history, but in India, which has an architectural heritage second to none, the present position may be regarded as intolerable. For not only are many of the ancient and mediæval monuments in the country acclaimed as of surpassing merit, but the influence of these architectural productions extended in the historical period over a large part of Asia, so that such stupendous masterpieces as the Borobudur in Java and the Angkor Vat in Cambodia owe their origin and high artistic and structural character to the powerful stimulation afforded by the achievements of the Indian School. Finally, there is the Taj Mahal at Agra, which several leading authorities have pronounced to be the most superb structural creation executed by the hand of man.

2. With these facts in view the Council are of the opinion that the encouragement of the study of architecture, so that the subject may again occupy the proud position it long held in this country, should be treated as an important aspect of any cultural development that may be in contemplation. Initial steps have been already taken by a body* of experts who have devised a scheme for a School of Indian Architecture and Regional Planning, which they feel would go a long way towards attaining the desired object. A pamphlet dealing with the scheme in detail is attached* and will fully explain the aims of such an institution.

*This pamphlet has not been reprinted. Any member who requires further information with regard to the suggested course of instruction should apply to the Registrar of the Calcutta University or to Mr. Sris Chandra Chatterjee, 49, Malanga Lane, Calcutta.

This proposal is already receiving the consideration of the authorities of the Calcutta University. While certain details in the scheme may require modification and adjustment, the Council are generally in favour of the proposal but they are of the opinion that the subject is of wider importance than here indicated, and that it should be organized on an all-India basis, with a central institution in Delhi and branches at such provincial capitals as Bombay, Calcutta and Madras. By these means it is felt that the architectural consciousness of the people will be aroused, that in the course of time a national form of the building art will gradually evolve, and that the cities and towns of India will produce a style of structure that will again be a delight to the eye.

3. From the attached pamphlet it will be seen that the type of institution which its promoters have planned, would consist of two departments, one for Architecture and the other for Regional Planning, and would be affiliated to a University. The course would extend over a period of seven years and give a standard of instruction equivalent to that of the Royal Institute of British Architects of the Institute of American Architects. In addition to the cost of a suitable building, properly to equip such an institution a sum of Rs. 45,000 of non-recurring expenditure has been estimated, while the annual recurring expense for the maintenance of the staff and establishment has been calculated at Rupees one and a half lakhs. An endowment for scholarships has been recommended, and, when the institution is in full working order, some 200 students could be trained. The fees have been worked out at an average of Rs. 50 per mensem.

4. The course of instruction will include an Entrance Examination to be held annually for admission to the school, permitting successful candidates to undergo a training of two years in a Pre-Architectural Course. Those who qualify in this preliminary course will be admitted into the Architectural Department for a further period of study extending to five years. In addition, a Regional Planning course has now been concentrated, but they feel that, unless steps are taken simultaneously to develop the cultural life of the people, there is a danger that India may lose spiritually more than she is likely to gain materially in the race for post-war prosperity. So far, the Council have directed the attention of the Government of India to a few aspects of this problem. They have pointed out the importance of providing permanent records of India's cultural history from the earliest times in National and Provincial Museums. They have also stressed the necessity for preserving the ancient monuments of India and have discussed the question of the effective utilization of such monuments in connection with cultural education by making them more accessible to Indian travellers or visitors from other countries.

(2) The Council feel, however, that so far they have only touched the fringe of this vital problem. In the past, India's contributions to world culture have been of inestimable value, especially in the fields of literature, religious philosophy, architecture and the fine arts. The great traditions of the past still remain, but, unless prompt steps are taken to prevent such a catastrophe, there is an imminent danger that they may be submerged and lost in the flood of twentieth century materialism. The question therefore arises as to what steps, if any should be taken to utilize everything that is best in India's ancient culture in connection with post-war reconstruction. Although the Council feel that cultural, as opposed to academic and technical education, should ordinarily be left to non-official agencies and that learned Societies and the general public should be invited to take an active part in the matter, they are nevertheless of the opinion that under present conditions some encouragement and assistance from the Central Government is essential.

(3) In the first place, an organization should be established, which might be known as the National Cultural Trust. Although it is desirable that this Trust

should be in touch with Government it should be as far as possible non-official and autonomous. At the inception of the scheme it might be necessary for Government to endow the Trust with sufficient funds to enable it to fulfil its proper functions but, for its main regular income, it would have to rely on financial support from the public. This Council believe that all Indians of rank, wealth and education are proud of their great cultural heritage and they have no doubt that the requisite propaganda will secure the income necessary to ensure the success of the project.

(4) The main functions of the National Cultural Trust would be :—

- (i) To encourage cultural education and research with particular reference to the preservation and development of traditional Indian culture in relation to such subjects as literature, sculpture, painting, music, dramatic art and dancing.
- (ii) To acquire for the nation, sites, monuments, manuscripts, pictures or other objects of importance from the point of view of Indian national culture.
- (iii) To advise the Government of India and the Provincial Governments with regard to cultural matters which are beyond the scope of the ordinary school or college curriculum.
- (iv) To co-ordinate and assist in the development of the activities of Indian Universities in the purely cultural field.
- (v) To co-operate with the learned Societies of India in order to encourage and expand the cultural side of the work now performed by them.
- (vi) To publish suitable popular literature in connection with cultural matters.
- (vii) To maintain close touch with all parts of India (including the States) by holding periodical conferences.

(5) With regard to the first of these points I am to say that the Council have under their consideration a scheme for the establishment of a National Academy of Art and Letters, with regard to which the Government of India are being addressed separately. It is intended that this Academy should function under the immediate control of the National Trust. While the Council do not contemplate that this Academy will assume any direct administrative control or responsibility in respect of similar institutions in the Provinces or the Indian States, they expect that it will maintain a high standard of efficiency and taste, which other smaller Academies in the country will seek to achieve. It will be a centre not merely for research and instruction in the fine and liberal arts but also for the training of persons deputed for this purpose by the Provinces and the States. The advice of experts from the Academy would be available if required by the Governing Bodies of local cultural institutions and, provided the Council of the Academy was satisfied that any such local institution had attained a reasonable standard of efficiency and deserved encouragement, it would be open to them to recommend to the Trustees that it should be given financial assistance in the form of a grant-in-aid from the funds of the National Trust.

(6) The second function proposed for the Trust would bear some resemblance to the work which is performed by the National Trust in England. The ultimate use to be made of the acquisitions would depend on their nature.

(7) As regards the third point, it is not intended that the National Trust should be concerned with the control or administration of museums. These would remain as at present under the Central and Provincial Governments assisted by the Trustees of the National Museum in the manner indicated in this Council's letters Nos. 2422 and 2736, dated 24th November, 1944, and 20th December, 1944, respectively. Further, the Archaeological Department would continue to be administered as a

present, but with the assistance of the recently constituted Archaeological Advisory Board. Except with regard to these matters, the Council hope that, in due course, the functions of the National Trust would gradually approximate to such as are performed in some European countries by the Department of Fine Arts. Apart, however, from its relations with the National Academy and items 2 and 6 mentioned in para. 4, the Trust would perform most of its functions not by the method of direct administration but as an advisory body with authority in suitable cases to allot grants-in-aid, to endow fellowships or scholarships, or otherwise to assist the Central and Provincial Governments or the States in the cultural development of India.

(8) The relations between the Trust and the Universities would naturally vary according to the prominence given to purely cultural education in the Universities concerned. The activities of most of the Indian Universities are necessarily restricted by financial difficulties, and the average student, confined as he usually is to a rigid scientific or literary curriculum, has little opportunity to interest himself in culture in the wider sense of the term. On the other hand, cultural research of great national value is often undertaken at the post-graduate stage in some of the Universities. What seems to be required at present is to encourage the formation of organizations such as exist in English and American Universities to foster the interest and activity of students in cultural matters outside their ordinary curriculum, and the publication in popular and attractive form of the results of cultural research. This is a field in which the help and co-operation of the National Trust could not fail to bear fruit. Further, their help in widening the scope of University education by endowing University Extension Lectures might have a very good effect.

(9) The assistance of the learned Societies of India would be of the greatest importance to the National Trust, especially in connection with the development of the popular side of the movement. The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal and its sister Societies in other parts of India are not merely groups of scholars associated for the purpose of scientific or cultural research. Probably the majority of the members of these bodies are ordinary intellectual people, who are not professional scientists or educationalists, but who find stimulus and recreation in culture and learning. In any cultural revival the influence of such bodies, if properly directed, might be of inestimable value to the country. In fact, in connection with the scheme which is now being outlined, the learned Societies would be in effect the agents of the National Trust within the areas from which the majority of their members are drawn. In a small way the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal is endeavouring to further the cause of culture by holding weekly Discussion Meetings (which are open to the public) at which well-known people are invited to speak on various scientific or cultural topics of interest to educated Indians or visitors to India. These talks have become popular not only with members of the Allied Forces but also with the ordinary residents of Calcutta and the interest which they have aroused is reflected by a considerable increase in applications for permanent membership of the Society. Possibly this side of the Society's work might be further developed by the publication of a number of popular hand-books on the history, religion and literature of India or with regard to some of her ancient cities and provinces. It might also be possible to expand the very important work on which the Society has been engaged for many years in connection with research and the publication in the *Bibliotheca Indica* of ancient treatises of unique value. Further, in any cultural survey which may be undertaken at the instance of Government or the National Trust (if and when constituted), this Council would always be prepared to take a part and they are only too anxious to assist the cause of cultural reconstruction in any way in which their help may be required. The Council have little doubt that most of the other learned Societies of India would also be ready to co-operate to the best of their ability.

(10) As regards the sixth item mentioned in para. 4, the Council feel that there is at present much scope in India for good popular literature (both for young people or for adults) on such subjects as Indian art and architecture, history, archaeology and the religion and ancient customs of the country. There is also a scarcity of good books for the intellectual traveller. It would be an important function of the National Trust to remedy this deficiency by the establishment of a good Publication Department. In this matter help would probably be forthcoming from the Universities and learned Societies.

(11) The seventh of the suggested functions of the National Trust calls for little comment. Such conferences should be held as frequently as possible in different parts of India for the purpose of keeping the Trustees in touch with the views of the leading people in all the chief cultural centres of the country. The sessions should be arranged to coincide with public holidays in order that there may be as little interference as possible with the professional work of the people who are asked to attend the conferences.

(12) It would of course be desirable to constitute the proposed National Trust by a special Act of the Central Legislature. The Trust would require a permanent Secretariat with its headquarters at New Delhi or possibly at Calcutta. The Board of Trustees should contain representatives from British India and the States and should include businessmen and members of the learned professions.

(13) Finally, I am to suggest that the Government of India should appoint a Committee of Enquiry for the purpose of making a general survey of those branches of traditional Indian culture, which are still alive or are capable of being revived for the welfare of the entire community. The survey should deal with such subjects as vernacular literature, religious philosophy, the drama, architecture, painting, sculpture, the decorative arts, music and dancing. Although the Committee should not be too large it should be representative of cultured opinion in India as a whole, including the Indian States. It should also contain representatives from some of the leading learned Societies of India. The main Committee might find it convenient to entrust the survey with regard to particular subjects to small sub-committees.

(14) After completing their survey the Committee should submit their recommendations to the Government of India on the following points :—

- (a) Methods to be adopted for preserving traditional Indian culture in localities where protective measures are necessary for this purpose.
- (b) The general development of cultural life in India with regard to the subjects mentioned in para. 13.
- (c) The Committee's views might be also ascertained with regard to this Council's proposal for the formation of a National Cultural Trust and the financial implications of the scheme. They might be invited to offer suggestions with regard to the scope and activities of the proposed organization or to put forward any alternative suggestions for cultural reconstruction in India.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) K. NAG,

General Secretary,

Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

ANNEXURE IV.

PROPOSAL FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NATIONAL ACADEMY
OF ART AND LETTERS.

No. 229.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL,
1, PARK STREET, CALCUTTA.*26th January, 1945.*

From

The General Secretary,
Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

To

The Secretary to
The Government of India,
Department of Education, Health and Lands,
New Delhi.

SIR,

I have the honour to refer to para. 5 of this Council's letter No. 228, dated 26th January, 1945, and to say that, as part of their proposals for the advancement of the cultural arts in post-war India, the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal desire to place before you a scheme which they venture to think may form the nucleus of a cultural movement with wide implications. This proposal envisages a Central Institute, established in Delhi, which would have as its object the encouragement and stimulation of the visual arts and the literary aspirations of the country as a whole. Such an institution might be designated 'The National Academy of Art and Letters', and would be planned, in the first instance, to develop, educationally, the study and practice of what are considered the basic elements of cultural life. The subjects specially selected for this purpose are as follows :—

- (a) The Graphic and Plastic Arts, such as Painting and Sculpture.
- (b) The Applied Arts, Decorative, Industrial and Commercial; Textiles weaving and embroidery; Metal work, wrought, cast and ornamented.
- (c) Indian Languages and Literature.
- (d) The Dramatic Art.
- (e) Music.
- (f) Dancing.

2. This Academy would be financed partly by fees and partly by funds from the National Trust and maintained in a building either attached to or in close association with the proposed National Museum and School of Architecture, as all these aspects of learning form an inter-related cultural whole. Here it may be stated that the Council are of the opinion that the institutions they have so far proposed might be designed and built in conjunction with one another, planned as an entity, and so co-ordinated both intellectually and structurally as to resolve themselves into one systematized organization with one object and aim.

3. If this principle is accepted the most suitable position for the range of buildings comprising this organization is the next consideration. A site which, for a variety of reasons, commends itself to the Council is the area within the Fort at

Delhi, which, when the present unsightly barracks are removed, would provide ample space for a group of buildings of the kind proposed. These buildings would be designed in a style to agree with their surroundings so that there would be nothing incongruous in the architectural scheme. Moreover, the Council feel that on sentimental grounds there is much to support such a proposal as, within the Fort at Delhi, itself a production of Islamic vision and indigenous workmanship, the various schools of art of India were amalgamated by means of the intellectual toleration of many rulers of the Mughal dynasty. A monument in an architectural style incorporating both Hindu and Muhammedan ideals, would record a period when by a broad-minded imperial patronage the arts became unified. Further, the environment may be regarded not merely as an appropriate one but as an inspiration.

4. As regards the actual composition of the proposed National Academy of Art and Letters, the building that would find accommodation for this purpose might resolve itself into three main divisions. In the central department would be the salons and studios for the cultivation of the arts of Painting and Sculpture, and work-rooms for the Applied Arts. There would be a spacious vestibule to this portion of the building for the display of selected examples produced by students, and where sales might also be effected. Here also would be the office of the Registrar, and a reception room. On each side of this central building would be wings, on one side for the provision of suitable rooms for instruction in the Dramatic Art, Music, and Dancing, while the other side would provide accommodation for a Library and the Department of Languages and Literature. In the latter wing would also be a large hall for the purpose of art exhibitions, concerts, and displays of dancing.

5. In this connection, a system of art exhibitions might be considered, firstly in the provinces, where at each local centre an exhibition of regional art, both Fine and Industrial, could be undertaken. Then, from these provincial exhibitions a number of the finest examples might be selected for display in a Salon or Academy held annually in the exhibition hall of the National Academy. Such an exhibition of the best art work that India can produce, drawn from all sources, with awards for those of exceptional merit, would not only stimulate the art effort of the country, but would also be a means of bringing the result of this movement to the notice of the public.

6. At this stage the Council do not propose to develop in detail the scheme of this centre of learning, but the following outlines of the manner in which effect may be given to the various departments concerned may explain their views.

7. *The School of Art.*—The artistic sense, as shown among the villagers by the Folk Art, and the higher classes by their classical productions, has been notable in India from the earliest times, and has been maintained fairly consistently throughout the course of history. This inherent aesthetic consciousness may be regarded as a definite national asset, and of great value in any scheme for the encouragement of cultural ideals. An Art Department therefore should find an important place in the National Academy, in the form of a School for the teaching and stimulation of the country's art. This School may have the following three main objects :—

- (i) Instruction in the Fine and Applied Arts.
- (ii) A teachers' department, in which students-in-training could be instructed in the methods of art education.
- (iii) Means for the substantial encouragement of the existing Art Schools in India.

With regard to (i) in the studios for the instruction in the Fine Arts, the subjects of painting and sculpture would take the first place, but engraving, lithography, and other arts of a like nature would also be taught.

In the workshops for the practice of the Applied Arts, equipment and material could be provided for students who take up these subjects. The decorative arts play an important part in raising the standard of environment.

With reference to (ii) the training of teachers, so that the art instincts of the people throughout the country may be stimulated, is an essential feature of the scheme. By these means public interest in the arts may be created, and this can be brought about by Art becoming a definite subject in the curriculum of elementary and secondary education. What is aimed at is not the practice of drawing, which is already undertaken in most educational institutions, but a training of the aesthetic sense; the stimulating of artistic judgement of taste assisted by the exhibition of good examples; an acquaintance with the historical development of art and especially with notable examples and the highest achievements of the past.

Regarding (iii), as the existing Art Schools throughout the country are all supported by either Provincial or State Governments, the present scheme cannot propose any definite share in their administration except to the extent suggested in para. 16 of this letter.

8. *Indian Languages and Literature.*—This department would include some of the principal features of the Academy's activities. Its main functions would be as follows :—

- (i) Research in connection with the ancient and mediaeval literature of India particularly with regard to history and religious philosophy.
- (ii) The translation of ancient texts of importance with reference to the cultural history of India.
- (iii) Instruction in the classical languages of India, such as Sanskrit and Pali; Prakrit; Arabic and Persian.
- (iv) Courses of instruction with regard to the ancient and modern literature of India. In this connection, lectures would be arranged with regard to the various religions of India and the development of the principal schools of religious philosophy.
- (v) Instruction (both conversational and literary) in the most important modern languages of India. Special courses would be arranged for visitors to India.
- (vi) The publication of books for instructional purposes connected with the above-mentioned subjects.
- (vii) *The maintenance of the Library of the Academy.*—This Library should be well equipped with all the standard books relating to the subjects in which the Academy provides instruction. In this connection, it might be desirable by legislative enactment to compel all publishers in India to send copies of new publications to the Librarian of the Academy, who would distribute the books to the appropriate libraries, e.g., scientific works to the National Institute of Sciences and anthropological and archaeological works to the Library of the National Museum.
- (viii) The preparation and publication of bibliographies relating to matters within the purview of the Academy.
- (ix) To submit reports to the Council of the Academy for the award of prizes for literary productions of exceptional merit.
- (x) To maintain a bureau for the purpose of giving information when required by members of the public regarding literary matters.

It should be emphasized that facilities for research in all subjects would be specially provided.

9. *School of Dramatic Art.*—This department would specialize in providing a training for the stage, speech training, elocution and voice production. Students would be encouraged to write plays, and those approved would be staged in the theatre hall of the Academy. There should be a small Workshop Theatre with appropriate equipment for the School of Drama.

In this connection, a project for a National Theatre might be considered, with a building large enough to accommodate an audience of from 1,200 to 1,500.

10. *Music.*—The purpose of this department is the promotion by means of study and practice of vocal and instrumental music. The historical development of the art would also be studied. Its syllabus might be designed on the following aspects of the subject: (a) Indian and Western Music, (b) Development of the Scale, (c) *Raga*, the Basis of Melody, (d) *Tala*, or the Measures, (e) Musical Composition, (f) Musical Instruments of India, (g) Kirtan Songs, etc.

A hall for music should be specially designed, and made available to students for private performances and recitals.

11. *Dancing.*—The aim of this section is to create a higher standard in Dancing in general, and the teaching of Dancing in particular; also to bring it into close relationship with the associated arts such as Music, the Drama, and the Fine Arts. It will provide facilities for the encouragement of new and creative dances, and will hold periodical auditions for the recognition of students of superior talent and promise. Its course might include: (a) Elements of Technique, (b) Folk Dancing, (c) Kathakali (South India), (d) Bharate Natyan and Sadir Nautch (South India), (e) Katak (North India), and (f) New Dances of India.

12. It is perhaps premature at present to make detailed recommendations with regard to the constitution of the proposed Academy. The Council think however, that it is important that its Governing Body should be representative, of all the best elements of Indian cultured opinion. In order to achieve the purpose which they have in view this Council think that the National Cultural Trust should be empowered to frame regulations with regard to the general activities of the Academy but, subject to these regulations the institution would be administered by a Governing Body consisting of Fellows, a Council and a Director.

13. The number of the Fellows should be restricted to about 100 persons in order that membership of this Body may be regarded as a distinction. They should be persons of acknowledged eminence and should include representatives of every branch of Indian culture. The method to be followed in appointing the Foundation Fellows and in filling vacancies will be a matter for subsequent consideration.

The Fellows will meet periodically at various cultural centres in India for the purpose of exchanging views with regard to the promotion of cultural education in general and the interests of the Academy in particular. Resolutions of an advisory nature relating to cultural matters, which are passed at such meetings, will be forwarded to the Trustees of the National Trust for their consideration. As regards resolutions relating to the Academy, it would be the duty of the Council to give effect to them, after reference to the Trustees, if necessary, in case of difficulty. At their Annual General Meeting the Fellows would elect the Council of the National Academy.

14. The Council would consist of about 20 members, including the Director of the Academy, who would be a member *ex-officio*. A sufficient number of seats on the Council should be allotted to Fellows resident in or in the neighbourhood of

Delhi in order that it may always be possible to secure a quorum. The main functions of the Council would be :—

- (i) To manage the affairs of the Academy and for this purpose to frame such rules as may appear to them to be necessary for its proper administration, provided that such Rules should not be inconsistent with any Regulations framed by the Trustees of the National Trust. All Rules so framed should be reported for the information of the Fellows at their next meeting.
- (ii) To superintend the publication of periodical or other works published by the Academy.
- (iii) To prepare and submit to the Annual General Meeting of the Fellows a report on the general concerns of the Academy. This report should be submitted to the Trustees of the National Trust with any recommendations which the Fellows might consider it necessary to make with reference thereto.
- (iv) To take such legal proceedings as might be necessary in the interest of the Academy.
- (v) To hold examinations in the subjects in connection with which the Academy provides instruction and to confer diplomas on successful candidates.
- (vi) To make recommendations to the Trustees of the National Trust for the affiliation of other cultural institutions to the National Academy or for the making of grants-in-aid to such institutions.
- (vii) To award prizes for literary works of exceptional merit.
- (viii) Subject to confirmation by the Trustees in the cases of the Director and the Principals of the main teaching departments of the Academy, to appoint all members of the teaching or ministerial staff of the institution.

15. The Director would be in immediate charge of the administration of the Academy subject to the control of the Council. The First Director would be appointed by the National Trust and subsequent appointments would be made by the Council subject to confirmation by the Trustees.

16. Although the Council of the National Academy would exercise no direct administrative control in respect of similar institutions in the Provinces or the States it would endeavour to secure the co-operation of the Governing Bodies of those institutions for the purpose of promoting the efficiency of cultural education in India according to a co-ordinated plan. This object might be secured by suggesting that Fellows of the Academy or experts in particular subjects appointed by the Council should be invited to inspect local institutions and give such advice as might be necessary. Further, it might be possible to achieve a reasonable standard of efficiency by developing the system of grants-in-aid in suitable cases, by the Academy undertaking the training of teachers deputed for this purpose from other parts of the country and by arranging for experts to deliver special courses of lectures at the principal cultural centres of India.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) K. Nag,

*General Secretary,
Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.*

ANNEXURE V.**CONSTITUTION OF NATIONAL PARKS.**

No. 235.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL,

1, PARK STREET, CALCUTTA.

26th January, 1945.

From

The General Secretary,
Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

To

The Secretary to
The Government of India,
Department of Education, Health and Lands,
New Delhi.

Sir,

I am directed by the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal to address you on the subject of the constitution of National Parks and National Monuments in India as a desirable aspect of post-war planning, to which the Society is devoting considerable attention from the point of view of cultural development in India.

2. The National Park system has been developed particularly in the United States of America which now possess a network of National Parks often associated with a National Monument. The legal basis of the structure rests partly on the powers of the President to declare a Monument, which may often be a natural feature and its environment, as a National Monument, and partly on the powers of the Legislature to create National Parks. The so-called National Monument may comprise an area of well over 1,000 acres, while National Parks extend to a magnitude in the order of hundreds of square miles. The Parks are maintained under an organized service and provision is made for touring, camping, enjoyment of national beauty, athletic pursuits, especially winter sports, and local amusement.

3. While National Parks of the American type are not existent in Great Britain, the preservation of historic buildings and relatively small areas of scenic interest is ensured to some extent by the National Trust which was first established in 1895 and acquired legislative recognition in 1906. The National Trust has considerably more restricted scope than the American National Parks organization, its object being the acquisition of places of historic interest or natural beauty by gift, lease or purchase in order to ensure their preservation as a national asset. Unlike the American National Parks and Monuments, the Trust functions entirely on voluntary funds and sale proceeds received from property vesting in the Trust without a grant from Government. In recent years, however, as the operations of the English National Trust have extended by acquiring large areas of scenic beauty on the coast of England, there has been some approximation to the ideal of the American National Parks and there has for some time been a movement in Great Britain advocating the inauguration of National Parks.

4. Among the recommendations of the Report of the Land Utilization Committee in rural areas (Scott Committee, 1942) was the constitution of a National Parks authority for Great Britain. The Committee recommended that the establishment of National Parks in Britain was long over-due. They recommended that delimitation of the Parks be undertaken nationally and that a body be set up to control National Parks under a Central Standing Authority or other appropriate central authority. They viewed with appreciation the work of the Forestry Commission in the establishment of National Forest Parks and the magnificent work of the National Trust. This Committee contemplated in particular the preservation of the coast of England and Wales through a National Park scheme and the provision of smaller regional open spaces by bringing the remaining common land of the country into a national scheme. This recommendation has recently been endorsed by Mr. W. S. Morrison, Minister of Town and Country Planning, who has declared the call for National Parks to be in the forefront of the Committee's recommendations. (Paragraph 178 of the Report of the Scott Committee.)

5. This information which has been designedly blocked in on broad lines without specification and other legislative details constitutes a general background against which the case for National Parks or a National Trust in India should be considered.

6. Among the objects of a National Trust or a National Park organization in India would be :—

- (a) The preservation of places either of natural beauty, or of special interest as centres of wild life or of historic associations, including ancient monuments and their surroundings, wherever these could serve the purpose of public recreation; and control of the use made of these areas, with or without direct maintenance, in conformity with these objects. The type of places would range from large areas of scenic beauty to limited areas associated with ancient monuments such as might be properly laid out as a park and place of quiet recreation on the model of certain monuments in Delhi.
- (b) Along with the preservation of these areas would go the responsibility for facilitating access by the public and, at the same time, controlling such access, so that it did not result in the deterioration of the places selected.

7. The Council recognize that, having regard to the varying conditions of climate and the incidence of such diseases as malaria in areas of scenic beauty and historical interest throughout India, a wide and detailed scrutiny of the suitability of the potential sites for these Parks and Monuments will be an essential preliminary to the formulation of actual proposals for their constitution. It would therefore be premature at this stage to express views as to their actual location: merely by way of example the hill area of Sikkim familiar already to many travellers, tourists, mountaineers and naturalists might be cited as suitable, with the co-operation of the Sikkim Durbar, for a National Park of the type which has already gained worldwide acceptance in such places as the Yosemite Valley in California.

8. The immediate aim therefore of this letter is to urge that India's natural endowment of scenery and wild life, and its age-long heritage of great monuments claim protection, from the widest cultural point of view, for the benefit of its people now living and for those who are to come, and to impress on the Government of India the desirability of taking up the question on lines which, as indicated in some detail above, have proved successful elsewhere in the world.

I have the honour to be,
 Sir,
 Your most obedient servant,
 (Sd.) K. NAG,
General Secretary,
Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

ANNEXURE VI.**PROPOSAL RELATING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF EXISTING CULTURAL RELATIONS BETWEEN INDIA AND THE UNITED KINGDOM.**

No. 3708.

ROYAL ASIATIC SOCIETY OF BENGAL,
1, PARK STREET, CALCUTTA,
5th December, 1945.

From :

The General Secretary,
Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

To :

The Secretary to
The Government of India,
Department of Education, Health and Lands,
New Delhi.

SIR,

I have the honour to enclose herewith a copy of a report (Paper A) which was recently submitted to this Council by the representatives whom they appointed on the 24th March, 1945, for the purpose of undertaking certain negotiations in England with a view to the development of cultural relations between India and the United Kingdom. The previous history of this matter is indicated in (i) the resolution of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, dated the 24th March, 1945 (Paper B) and (ii) the note (Paper C) which was prepared in connection with the meeting held on the 24th July, 1945, under the auspices of the Royal Society in London.

2. The report of the Society's representatives (Paper A) was considered at a meeting of this Council on the 27th November, 1945, when it was adopted and the recommendations contained therein were unanimously accepted. In accordance with these recommendations, the Council propose to take early steps to constitute a permanent Joint Committee on Cultural Relations to represent learned opinion in India as a whole, which will be in a position to deal directly with the corresponding Committee in England as far as possible on the basis of reciprocal exchange. It is proposed that the first meeting of this Committee should be held in Calcutta as early as possible, when an Executive Committee of not more than seven persons will be elected, and there will be a general discussion with regard to the formulation of a suitable scheme for the development of cultural contacts between India and the United Kingdom with regard to such matters as :

- (i) The exchange of eminent scholars between India and the United Kingdom,
- (ii) The extension of facilities in British and Indian Universities for the study of subjects relating particularly to such matters as British and Indian literature, history and art,
- (iii) The exchange of literature relating to the subjects mentioned in (ii),
- (iv) The provision of the requisite facilities for research scholars in England and India particularly with a view to enabling them to make suitable contacts in the countries which they intend to visit, and
- (v) The encouragement of scholars to undertake special courses of study in such cultural institutions as Museums and Art Galleries for the purpose of applying the results of their investigations to the improvement of the organization of the National Collections in their own countries.

3. If the Indian Committee agree with regard to the general lines of a suitable scheme for cultural exchange and to co-operate for this purpose with the British Committee the next step would presumably be that they would empower their Executive Committee to draw up and adopt a detailed scheme for the purpose of implementing any general directions that may be given by the Indian Joint Committee on Cultural Relations. At this latter stage it will of course be necessary for the Executive Committee to consider carefully the financial implications of the scheme which will probably have to be financed either directly or indirectly by the Governments of Great Britain and India.

4. This Council think that the Indian Joint Committee on Cultural Relations should have power to co-opt and that its initial constitution should be as follows :

- 6 members representing the Indian Universities nominated by the Inter-University Board,
- 3 members nominated by the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal,
- 2 " " " Indian Science Congress Association,
- 2 " " " All-India Oriental Conference,
- 1 member " " History Congress,
- 1 " " " Indian Historical Records Commission,
- 1 " " " Archaeological Advisory Board,
- 1 " " " Imperial Library,
- 1 " " " Trustees of the Indian Museum, Calcutta,
- 1 " " " " Victoria Memorial, Calcutta,
- 1 " " " " Victoria and Albert Museum, Bombay;
- 1 " " " " Madras Museum, Madras,
- 4 members " " Government of India in consultation with the Crown representative to represent Indian States,
- 1 member " " Government of India,
- 1 " " each Local Government to represent learned opinion in each Province,
- 4 members to be invited by the External Affairs Dept. of the Govt. of India to represent Afghanistan, Nepal, Ceylon and Burma,
- 6 " nominated by other learned Societies in India,
- The Educational Adviser to the Government of India,
- The Director-General of Archaeology in India.

5. This Council are of the opinion that the scheme as outlined in the report of their representatives is one of great importance and that its adoption may lead to valuable developments in the field of learning both in India and in England. The incidental expenses in connection with the inauguration of the scheme are likely to be considerably in excess of any sum which the Society would be in a position to meet from its own funds, particularly in connection with travelling allowances and secretarial expenses. In these circumstances I am to enquire whether the Government of India would be prepared to meet the expenses connected with the travelling allowances of the members who attend the inaugural meeting of the Committee and the subsequent meeting or meetings of the Executive Committee and also to place an initial grant of Rs. 5,000 at the disposal of the Society towards the incidental secretarial expenses connected with the scheme.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

(Sd.) K. NAG,

General Secretary,

Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal.

REPORT (*Paper A*)

Under the terms of the Resolution of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, dated 24th March, 1945, it was decided to co-operate as far as possible with the British Council in connection with their cultural activities, and the Council appointed us as their representatives to negotiate with the British Council and to explore the situation further in England. We were also asked to submit a report on our return for the consideration of the Council of our Society.

When we arrived in England we were faced with the initial difficulty that the future of the British Council itself was under discussion, that Sir Findlater Stewart's Report with regard to this important question was still pending with the Foreign Office and the Treasury, and that the country was on the eve of a General Election. The attitude of the British Council was, therefore, vague and non-committal, and our impression was that they were not in an immediate position constructively to assist in the development of cultural relations between India and the United Kingdom. The British Council, however, fully recognized the importance both to England and to India of the development of these contacts, and in this connection we found there was a strong body of opinion in the United Kingdom which was greatly interested in strengthening friendly relations between the two countries in the field of learning.

Professor A. V. Hill's Report had shown how much could be done in this respect for Natural Science, and it was felt that there were great possibilities of cementing a long-standing friendship in other fields of learning, including literature, history and the arts, where England and India had each much to contribute to the cause of human knowledge.

It may be mentioned that we were particularly indebted to the Marquess of Zetland, Sir John Anderson, Sir Henry Dale, Professor A. V. Hill, Sir John Clapham and Sir Leonard Woolley for valuable advice and assistance.

At this stage the matter was taken up by the Royal Society, under whose auspices a meeting was held on the 24th July, 1945, to discuss generally the question of the improvement of cultural relations between India and the United Kingdom, and to consider a proposal that a permanent committee should be formed to promote such relations. Representatives of some of the most important branches of British learning were invited to the meeting, and the following gentlemen were actually present :

Sir Henry Dale (Chairman)	Dr. K. de B. Codrington	Sir John Forsdyke
Mr. E. B. H. Baker	Sir John Cumming	Dr. C. Forster-Cooper
Mr. E. H. Brauholtz	Mr. Justice Edgley	Sir Cyril Fox
Sir Frank Brown	Mr. L. K. Elmhirst	Mr. R. A. Frost
Sir John Clapham	Sir Lewis Fermor	Sir Angus Gillan
Mr. H. Cloughton	Mr. A. E. Foot	Mr. B. Gray
Sir Richard Gregory	Sir Eric Maclagan	Mr. T. P. Tunnard-Moore
Professor A. V. Hill	Major Markham	Dr. W. D. West
Sir Frederick Kenyon	Mr. I. G. Philip	Sir Gilbert Wiles
Sir Hector Hetherington	Mr. F. Richter	Sir Richard Winstedt
Professor J. H. Hutton	Mr. S. C. Roberts	Sir Leonard Woolley
Sir Harry Lindsay	Col. R. B. S. Sewell	Dr. J. L. Simonsen
Mr. J. H. Lindsay		

The Marquess of Zetland and Sir Cyril Norwood who were unable to attend forwarded notes for consideration at the meeting.

A most useful discussion took place, and there was no doubt that all present were seriously interested in preserving the closest possible cultural link with India. It was ultimately resolved that :

The Presidents of the Royal Society and the British Academy be requested to set up a permanent Joint Committee on Cultural Relations with India, consisting of representatives nominated by appropriate learned societies and other interested bodies, with power to co-opt.

It seems likely that considerable weight might be attached by Government to recommendations made by a Committee so constituted. Moreover, we have ascertained unofficially that there is every likelihood that the British Council would welcome the scheme, and would co-operate to the best of their ability. If so, there would be a reasonable prospect that money would be forthcoming to finance projects which received the Committee's support.

The necessary steps are now being taken to form the Joint Committee which is likely to have its first meeting during the month of October or November. It will probably elect a small executive committee to transact its current business, and may in due course consider such matters as (i) A general scheme for developing cultural relations between Great Britain and India ; (ii) The desirability of sending one or perhaps two British scholars to India in the near future to do for other branches of culture what Professor Hill has done for Natural Science ; and (iii) A proposal that some well-known Indian scholars should be invited to England.

It is, however, clear that the Joint Committee on Cultural Relations which it is proposed to constitute could only form part of the machinery required for the business of effective cultural exchange between the two countries. In this connection, a suggestion was made at the meeting of the 24th July that a similar permanent committee might usefully be formed in India to conduct the Indian side of the business connected with cultural exchange. We agree with this proposal, and suggest that steps should be taken in India to form a permanent Joint Committee on Cultural Relations to represent learned opinion in India as a whole (including the major Provinces and the States).

In our opinion, the most suitable body to take the initiative in this matter is the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal. We suggest that this matter should be brought before the Council as soon as possible, when the following points, *inter alia*, may also be considered :

- (1) The Indian Cultural Relations Committee should not be too large or unwieldy. Possibly the Archaeological Advisory Board may be taken as a model.
- (2) The Government of India should be asked for a grant to meet all expenses connected with the periodical meetings of the Committee. There will be some expense incurred with secretarial arrangements ; and travelling allowances should be paid to members. If the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal undertake the responsibility for the secretarial work of the Committee it would be reasonable that they should ask for a sufficient grant to enable them efficiently to undertake this additional work. The main function of the Committee would be to dispose of all matters (financial and otherwise) connected with cultural exchange, *e.g.*, if any question arose with regard to the selection of eminent Indian scholars to visit England. In reference to all such matters the Committee in India would ordinarily deal directly with the corresponding Committee in England.
- (3) If the scheme materializes, all expenses connected with sending British scholars to India would have to be met from British sources, and the cost of sending Indian scholars or students to England would have

to be met from Indian funds, which probably for the present would have to be provided by the Government of India. It is, however, desirable that the Committee should be autonomous and should be allowed to perform its functions as far as possible on an unofficial basis. In due course this work should be undertaken by the Indian National Cultural Trust, if and when that body is constituted.

- (4) In order to set up the requisite machinery for effective cultural exchange it may possibly be necessary initially to invite one or more British scholars to India to discuss the matter on the spot with the leading learned societies there, or an Indian scholar might be sent to England to assist in drawing up a scheme.

Signed : Norman G. A. Edgley, Leonard K. Elmhirst,
W. D. West, C. W. Gurner, A. P. Benthall.

(Paper B)

Copy of the minutes of the Special Council held on 24-3-45 to consider the telegram received from the British Council.

Item : Consideration of a telegram given below from the British Council in answer to the Society's letter, dated the 20th February, 1945.

'Your letter February 20th received reply airmailed today regret Council unable this stage make definite answer your proposals but issues should be clarified when your representatives arrive London Delighted prospect further discussion with them—Secretary General British Council.'

After a thorough discussion of the matter in all its implications, the Council resolved to forward the following letter to the British Council in continuation of the Society's previous letter, on the subject, No. 640 of the 20th February, 1945 :—

'The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal has watched with great interest the cultural and humanitarian activities of the British Council in the different countries of the world, particularly those in China carried through Dr. Joseph Needham, and would welcome that India should be included in their sphere of activity. The R.A.S.B. is prepared to co-operate on the lines indicated below :—

- (1) For organizing cultural services to the British, American and Indian armed forces stationed in India during the course of the War.
This work has already been organized for Calcutta by the R.A.S.B., but it is handicapped owing to lack of funds and personnel.
- (2) For providing Indian scientific and cultural workers with original literature published during the War in U.K., U.S.A., U.S.S.R., and the other countries (Scientific literature supply service).
- (3) To organize exchange of visits between Indian and British savants in the field of science, letters, technology and medicine.
- (4) To co-operate in any other manner which may be agreed upon by the two societies'.

It was also resolved that the Council's representatives should ascertain from the British Council the manner in which co-operation would be desirable or possible having regard to the constitution and aims of the R.A.S.B. and also the extent to which the British Council would be prepared to render financial assistance to the Society to achieve the objects in view. On their return they should submit a Report for consideration. The representatives appointed to negotiate and explore the situation jointly and severally with the British Council are the Hon'ble Mr. Justice Edgley, Mr. C. W. Gurner, Dr. W. D. West, Mr. A. P. Benthall and Mr. L. K. Elmhirst.

(Paper C)

Note by Mr. Justice Edgley on the Development of cultural relations between India and Great Britain for consideration at a meeting to be held under the auspices of the Royal Society.

The Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, which is the oldest learned Society in India (founded by Sir William Jones, F.R.S., in 1784), has recently formulated a number of proposals in connection with Cultural Reconstruction in India.

These proposals dealt *inter alia* with such matters as the future activities of the Archaeological Department; the policy to be adopted with regard to Museums; the necessity for the amendment of the Ancient Monuments Preservation Act; the establishment of a National Cultural Trust; the scientific preservation of National Records, and the development generally of cultural institutions in India.

While the above-mentioned questions were under the consideration of the Council of the Society it came to their notice that the British Council had sent a representative to India, apparently for the purpose of reporting on the feasibility of bringing India within the scope of the British Council's operations.

It is a matter of common knowledge that the British Council have been doing very valuable work as regards cultural and scientific exchange between Great Britain and foreign countries, particularly in sending out from England scholars of international reputation, inviting scholars from those countries to visit Great Britain, granting scholarships, and establishing professorships, libraries and cultural institutions.

The Council of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal were of the opinion that it would be for the mutual benefit of Great Britain and India if activities such as those in which the British Council and the Royal Asiatic Society are interested could be expanded; and some correspondence took place between the British Council and the Council of the Society with regard to the possibility of co-operation between these two bodies, particularly for the purpose of facilitating the exchange of cultural and scientific ideas between Great Britain and India.

The present position with reference to these negotiations is indicated in the resolution of the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society of Bengal, dated the 24th March, 1945, a copy of which is attached to this note.

Whatever the future constitution of India may be, it is a matter of vital importance, both to Europe and to Asia, that close and friendly scientific and cultural contacts should be maintained and developed between India and Great Britain.

In the scientific field the recommendations contained in Professor A. V. Hill's Report are now under the consideration of the Government of India. The cultural aspect of the problem is one which requires separate detailed examination. It closely concerns not only the British Council but also several of the leading learned societies of this country.